

CUSTOMS TRADE PARTNERSHIP AGAINST TERRORISM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2019

BACKGROUND

The Customs Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (CTPAT) is the U.S. Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) flagship international supply chain security program, established in statute under the SAFE Port Act of 2006.

When a company joins CTPAT, it agrees to work with CBP through this public-private partnership to enhance security throughout the international supply chain, identify security gaps, and implement security best practices.

CTPAT applicants are vetted by CBP and a site visit is conducted to validate the implementation of minimum security criteria for the program. Once a CTPAT applicant has been approved, it will receive benefits such as shorter wait times and fewer inspections at ports of entry.

The CTPAT Reauthorization Act of 2019 reauthorizes the program for the first time in 13 years to ensure that the program is ready to meet the dynamic threats currently facing the international supply chain, facilitates legitimate low-risk trade, and ensures CTPAT participants receive tangible benefits.

OVERVIEW OF LEGISLATION

- Reauthorizes the CTPAT program to reflect current industry practices and threats to the international supply chain;
- Expands CTPAT eligibility to importers, exporters, customs brokers, forwarders, sea, air, and land carriers, and gives the CBP Commissioner flexibility to expand it to other entities in the international supply chain, as necessary;
- Mandates that CBP consult with industry when implementing new or updated security criteria;
- Ensures participants receive quantifiable benefits such as shorter wait times and fewer inspections at ports of entry for partnering with CBP;
- Expands tangible and specific benefits to all participants at various stages of the CBP vetting and site visit validation process;
- Provides CBP with a mechanism to suspend or remove participants from the program for failing to meet minimum security criteria, providing false or misleading information, failing to comply with the law, or posing a threat to national security;
- Provides protections for industry when appealing a suspension or removal from the program to mitigate economic hardships;
- Codifies a process for recurring recertification and revalidation of security practices by CBP;
- Allows CBP to accept a site visit conducted by a cleared foreign government under a Mutual Recognition Agreement for continued participation in CTPAT.